

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 /115 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1845

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19530

MONTREAL FOR US REP ICAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ PINS, PFOR, OTRA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ROME DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE/EXTRAORDINARY
ASSEMBLY - FRENCH CONSULTATIONS JULY 16

1. SUMMARY: IN CONSULTATION JULY 16, FRENCH INDICATED
OPEN-MINDEDNESS WITH REGARD TO PROPOSALS FOR LINKING
INDEPENDENT CONVENTION AND AMENDMENT BUT WERE UNWILLING
CONTEMPLATE JOINT PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS BEFORE ROME MEETING.
ON CHAIRMANSHIP, FRENCH SAID THEY WOULD NOT OPPOSE SCIOLLA
LA GRANGE FOR CONFERENCE IF WE WOULD NOT OPPOSE DIALLO
FOR ASSEMBLY. ENDSUMMARY.

2. US-FRENCH CONSULTATION ATTENDED BY GUILLAUME, COPIN
(MFA), MINISTER PETROW (US), HUFFMAN (US), STEWART (US)
AND INCLUDED LUNCHEON HOSTED BY MINISTER PETROW.

3. AT OUTSET US REP NOTED US POSITION HAD BECOME MORE
FLEXIBLE SINCE MEETING WITH FRENCH REPS APRIL 30; DESCRIBED
WILLINGNESS CONSIDER SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT PROPOSAL IN
RETURN FOR SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT CONVENTION; INDICATED
INTEREST IN WHETHER FRENCH POSITION ANY MORE FLEXIBLE THAN
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PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED.

4. IN BRIEF, FRENCH INDICATED THEY WERE OPEN-MINDED WITH REGARD TO PROPOSALS BEFORE ROME MEETINGS AND WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS US MIGHT PUT FORWARD. THEIR FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN REMAINED FEAR THAT INDEPENDENT CONVENTION WOULD BE ADOPTED AND RATIFIED ONLY BY SMALL NUMBER INDUSTRIALIZED STATES, AND WOULD THEREFORE BE INEFFECTIVE AND COULD GENERATE RETALIATORY MEASURES BY LDC'S. GUILLAUME OBSERVED THAT EVEN THOUGH PROPOSED CONVENTION WOULD PROVIDE FOR FACT-FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS IT WAS HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL IN PROVIDING A BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISAPPROVAL OF STATE CONDUCT. FRENCH INDICATED THAT IF THESE US SUGGESTIONS SATISFIED THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT BROAD ACCEPTANCE THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT CONVENTION (ALONG WITH AMENDMENTS) AT ROME. FRENCH AGREED THAT DEGREES OF ACCEPTANCE OF CONVENTION WOULD PARTIALLY BE FACTOR OF STRENGTH WITH WHICH IT WAS PROMOTED.

5. RECENT PROPOSAL WITH UK TO ALTER PROPOSED CONVENTION RULE 20 TO GIVE ABSTENTIONS IN CONFERENCE CHARACTER OF NEGATIVE VOTE WAS DESCRIBED AS EFFORT ENSURE BROAD ACCEPTANCE OF CONVENTION. GUILLAUME SAID FRENCH VERY STRONGLY FAVORED THIS INITIATIVE.

6. OTHER ALTERNATIVES, WHICH GUILLAUME SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER IF WE WISHED WERE RATIFICATION FORMULA REQUIRING GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF RATIFICATIONS; PROVISION MAKING ADOPTION OF CONVENTION CONTINGENT ON ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT; CONFERENCE RULE REQUIRING ONLY SIMPLE MAJORITY OF STATES IN ATTENDANCE FOR ADOPTION OF CONVENTION.

7. FRENCH REPS SAID THEY DOUBTED FRENCH WOULD BE ABLE PROVIDE US WITH OFFICIAL REACTIONS TO ANY SUCH PROPOSALS (IF WE MADE THEM) BEFORE ROME MEETINGS. MOREOVER, EVEN IF COMMON UNDERSTANDING WERE THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE BEFORE MEETINGS, FRENCH THOUGHT COMMON FRENCHUS DEMARCHES BEFORE MEETINGS WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE. REASONS GIVEN WERE (A) WOULD CREATE IMAGE OF COALITION OF GREAT AIR SERVICE STATES GENERATING ADVERSE REACTION BY LDC'S; CONFIDENTIAL

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(B) FRENCH HAD ALREADY ALTERED POSITION BY AGREEING SUPPORT INCORPORATION OF MONTREAL; TO URGE SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT CONVENTION AT THIS TIME WOULD GIVE APPEARANCE OF SELL-OUT TO US/UK WITH ATTENDANT LOSS OF PRESTIGE AND PURSUASIVENESS WITH LDC'S; (C) FRENCH THOUGHT MOST EFFECTIVE POSITION FOR THEM WOULD BE APPEARANCE AS HONEST BROKER AND ADVISER FOR LDC'S AT ROME MEETINGS.

8. BY IMPLICATION FRENCH INDICATED THEY WOULD NOT GIVE THEIR BLESSINGS TO JOINT UK/US DEMARCHE BEFORE CONFERENCE/ ASSEMBLY.

9. GUILLAUME STATED FRENCH PROMOTIONS TO DATE OF AMENDMENT PROPOSAL HAD NOT CONTAINED ANY CRITICISM OF CONVENTION PROPOSAL.

10 GUILLAUME INDICATED FRENCH DID NOT WANT CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE TO BE MAJOR OBSTACLE AND WOULD NOT OPPOSE SCIOLO LA GRANGE FOR CONFERENCE CHAIRMANSHIP IF WE WOULD NOT OPPOSE DIALLO FOR ASSEMBLY CHAIRMANSHIP. US REPS INDICATED WE WERE NOT OPPOSING DIALLO. GUILLAUME SAID IDEA OF SINGLE CHAIRMANSHIP HAD NOT BEEN WIDELY ACCEPTED.

11. FRENCH DELEGATION TO ROME MEETINGS WILL BE HEADED BY MAURICE GUIMAUD (SECGEN CIVIL AVIATION-MOT) (WHO WILL ATTEND FOR FIRST FEW DAYS), AND WILL INCLUDE GUILLAUME, COPIN (MFA), MUSEUX, MFA REP AND EMBASSY REP.

12. COMMENT: DESPITE LACK OF SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS, CONSULTATIONS WERE CORDIAL. FRENCH APPEARED MORE FLEXIBLE THAN ON PRIOR OCCASIONS. US REPS WERE OF IMPRESSION THAT FRENCH REPS WERE SINCERE IN THEIR PROFESSIONS OF OPEN-MINDEDNESS REGARDING US SUGGESTIONS RELATING TO ROME MEETINGS.
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